## **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-16 and 20 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 16 and 20 have been amended and claims 17-19 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added.

Applicant acknowledges the indication on page 3, items 2 and 3 that claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-15 are allowed, and claims 19 and 20 recite allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 16 is amended to include the allowable features of claim 19 and the features of intervening claims 17 and 18. Claim 20 is amended to revise its dependency. Thus, claims 16 and 20 are also allowable.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

## I. <u>REPLY TO REJECTION</u>

On page 2 item 1 of the Office Action, claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,527,396 to Okamori et al. (hereinafter "Okamori").

Claim 16 is amended to include the allowable features of claim 19 and the features of intervening claims 17 and 18. Claims 17 and 18 are canceled accordingly. Therefore, claim 16 is allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

## II. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Seth S. Kim, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted, FLESHNER & KIM, LLP

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Date:

**JANUARY 31, 2006** 

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